Cashew Board

486. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand to constitute a Cashew Board on the line of other Commercial Crops Boards like Spices Board, Rubber Board etc; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have been a request for setting up of a Cashew Development Board. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on demands for grants for 1999-2000 had also recommended the setting up of such a Board. Besides, Parliamentary Standing Committee on demand for grants Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce in its Forty Second report had recommended constitution of Cashew Board on the lines of other commercial crops Board.

The above said recommendations/suggestions were examined by the Government and it was felt that the creation of Cashew Board on the lines of other crops Board was not required as the various aspect relating to Cashew development, research, trade including import and export of Cashew are already been carried out by the respective institutions/organisation under the Government.

The Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development under Ministry of Agricutlure is implementing the programmes relating to the production and development of Cashew, research activities are undertaken by the National Research Centre for Cashew under Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Cashew Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Commerce and industry is exclusively looking after processing and trade promotion including import and export. Only the activities of these organisations were needed to be effectively coordinated at the Central level. Accordingly the Government of India has already constituted a Steering Committee in the Department of Agriculture and Coopertion on Cashew to coordinate research, development and export promotion activities.